



Preparedness News and Information

From FEMA's Preparedness Division

October 10, 2003

NATIONAL NEWS

FEMA Announces Support for 2003 Fire Prevention Week

Firehouse.com, October 8, 2003

This year FEMA and the USFA are joining NFPA to announce and promote National Fire Prevention Week by helping first responders to inform citizens of the precautionary steps to safeguard homes, businesses and wildlands from the devastation of fire.

National Stockpile of SARS Safety Gear Proposed

CIDRAP, October 8, 2003

Preparations for the possible return of SARS should include establishment of a national stockpile of equipment to protect healthcare workers, as a prolonged SARS outbreak could force many hospitals into insolvency because of increased staff needs.

Ridge Begins Town Hall Style Meeting Tour

Associated Press, October 8, 2003

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge conducted the first of seven town hall-style meetings across the country Wednesday, seeking Americans' ideas and concerns while defending the Bush administration's response to terrorism.

- [In Visit Here Today, Ridge Says Every American Should be Involved in Security Effort](#), *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Oct 9

Science Panel Urges Review of Research Terrorists Could Use

NY Times, October 9, 2003

A panel of the National Academy of Sciences yesterday recommended prior review, at the university and federal levels, of experiments that could help terrorists or hostile nations make biological weapons.

HHS Issues New Rules to Enhance Security of the US Food Supply

UPI, October 9, 2003

Two new [FDA regulations](#) were issued that will enable better efforts to monitor and inspect imported food and allow for quick identification of establishments involved in food contamination.

CONGRESS

Homeland Security, Crime is Focus of Tech-Related Bills

GovExec, October 7, 2003

The outcry over the 2001 antiterrorism law known as the USA PATRIOT Act manifested itself in new Senate legislation last week including measure, S. 1709, which would limit the use of surveillance and the issuance of search warrants.

Key House Chairman Backs Secret Anti-terrorism Center

GovExec, October 8, 2003

The chairman of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee on Wednesday said he backs the creation of an anti-terrorism center beyond the reach of public scrutiny.

Congress Will Shake Up Homeland Grants

UPI, October 9, 2003

Because lawmakers agree that the current system of providing federal funding to first responders does not work, a number of bills are being introduced to fix this problem.

RECENT LEGISLATION

- **H.R.3227**: To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish clearly defined standards and guidelines for Federal, State, and local government emergency preparedness and response capability, and for other purposes, *House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*, October 2
- **S.1709** : A bill to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to place reasonable limitations on the use of surveillance and the issuance of search warrants, and for other purposes, *Senate Judiciary Committee*, October 2
- **H.R.3266** : To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to first responders, and for other purposes, *House Homeland Security Committee*, October 8
- **H.R.3274** : To enhance homeland security by encouraging the development of regional coordination plans for emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, *House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*, October 8

RECENT HEARINGS

- [The Federal Response to Hurricane Isabel](#), Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 7

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Homeland Security Funding isn't Reaching Most Cities, Report Finds

MSNBC, October 6, 2003

According to a new [survey](#) released by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, a majority of the funds from DHS earmarked for local communities still have yet to be received at the city level.

Cincinnati to Work with Homeland Security Center

GovExec, October 6, 2003

Cincinnati plans to work with a federal agency to develop ways of responding to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction and in return federal officials say Cincinnati will help the government by testing new tools and methods.

County Applies for Homeland Security Funding

Chronicle Tribune, October 7, 2003

The Sheriff's department, Marion General Hospital, and the Marion VA Medical Center will participate in a mock disaster drill to test the emergency preparedness of local law enforcement, emergency and health agencies.

Provo City Encouraging Emergency Preparedness

KSL News, October 6, 2003

Provo City is launching an emergency preparedness campaign, trying to get residents to develop a plan in the event of some emergency, and today used the city's siren as a reminder.

Fire Departments Receive \$274k in Federal Grants

Telegraph, October 9, 2003

Under the DHS's Assistance to Firefighters grant program the federal government provides 90 percent of training and purchase costs and the local communities are responsible for the remaining 10 percent.

Disaster Plan Soon to be Released

Brattleboro Reformer, October 9, 2003

A long-promised state review of the Vermont Yankee emergency response plan will be released within a month, along with \$300,000 to educate the public in five towns within the plant's emergency planning zone about the plan.

Learning Lessons from 9/11

NY Post, October 9, 2003

The Bloomberg administration is using \$890,000 in federal funds to set up the emergency preparedness training program to educate parents and school staffers on what to do in the case of a terrorist attack or other emergencies.

Park Ridge Sets Drill

Park Ridge Herald Advocate, October 9, 2003

Area firefighters, police and hospital emergency room personnel will be responding to a simulated disaster involving a Metro train, an unknown substance and at least 30 victims during an emergency preparedness drill to be practiced in Park Ridge.

Emergency Training Extended to Community

Appeal Tribune, October 8, 2003

Neighborhood Emergency Teams training begins next week in Silverton, with the initial training slated for earthquake preparedness, NET also trains for other large-scale disasters like floods or fires as well as a little planning for terrorism.

Schools Prepare for an Emergency

Needham Times, October 8, 2003

Since September 11, a local school has developed a handbook that tells educators how to respond to a number of incidents, including how to implement a lockdown.

Citizen Emergency Team to Start Training

Star Telegram, October 5, 2003

Tarrant County's first citizen emergency response team will begin training soon with the goal for emergency and medical personnel to help people in neighborhoods, community organizations and workplaces develop basic response skills.

Mock Emergency Points to Problem Using Cell Phones

Walker County Messenger, October 9, 2003

A drill identified potential problems that cell phone users might experience during an emergency, as the individual attempting to start the drill was connected to the wrong 911 center.

Barrington, Warren Police Eye Mutual Aid Agreement

East Bay Newspapers, October 9, 2003

Neighboring police departments are considering a mutual aid agreement that would allow either department to request assistance and would provide the 'visiting' officers with the authority of a regular town officer.

Fire Response Agencies Snuffed 'Serious'

The Herald, October 10, 2003

During a meeting held after a large fire outside a petroleum company, mutual aid agreements were praised with providing responding agencies with critical resources necessary to extinguish the blaze.

RELATED INFORMATION

RECENT REPORTS

- [DOD Excess Property: Risk Assessment Needed on Public Sales of Equipment that Could Be Used to Make Biological Agents](#), GAO-04-81TNI, October 2003
- [Tracking Homeland Security Funds Sent to the 50 State Governments](#), U.S. Conference of Mayors, September 2003

The information contained in this newsletter was collected from Internet sources. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of the Department of Homeland Security or FEMA's Preparedness Division.